

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05234 031316Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 059936

R 031002Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5273

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, SY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SYRIAN PM AYYUBI TO JORDAN

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN PM AYYUBI AND HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION SPENT JULY 28-31 IN AMMAN TO INAUGURATE IMPLEMENTATION OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN COOPERATIVE MEASURES ANNOUNCED DURING JUNE ASAD VISIT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS OUTLINED IN UNUSUAL DETAIL ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING ACTIVATION OF LONG-DORMANT MAQARIN DAM CONSTRUCTION. NO MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WERE MENTIONED IN SPEECHES OR COMMUNIQUE. JORDANIAN PUBLIC GENERALLY PLEASED BY DEVELOPING CLOSENESS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN PM MAHMUD AL-AYYUBI AND HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION SPENT WELL-PUBLICIZED FOUR DAYS IN JORDAN JULY 28-31. GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED DEP PM AND FORMIN KHADDAM, ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE MIN MUHAMMED AL-IMADI, AND COS MAJ GEN HIKMAT ASH-SHIHABI, RECEIVED RED-CARPET TREATMENT WHICH HAS LATELY BECOME EDE RIGEUR FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 05234 031316Z

EXCHANGES OF SYRIAN-JORDANIAN DELEGATIONS. VISIT WAS

DESCRIBED IN MEDIA AS FIRST STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF GOALS OUTLINED IN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED DURING VISIT OF ASAD TO AMMAN IN JUNE, WITH STRESS ON DISCUSSIONS IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, RAILROADS, INFORMATION, AND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. "JOINT HIGHER JORDANIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE" ESTABLISHED DURING ASAD VISIT, WHICH INCLUDED ON THE JORDANIAN SIDE PM RIFAI, MINISTERS SALAH ABU ZAYD, COS BIN SHAKER, AND VIRTUALLY EVERY GOJ MINISTER INVOLVED WITH DEVELOPMENT, MET FOR FOUR SESSIONS DURING VISIT. IN SPITE OF PRESENCE OF COS FROM EACH SIDE ON COMMITTEE, ALMOST NO MENTION WAS MADE IN PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS OF MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS, NOR DID SPOKESMEN EMPLOY USUAL RHETORIC ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. ATMOSPHERE, IN SHORT, APPEARED TO BE STRICTLY BUSINESS AND ORIENTED TOWARD BILATERAL ECONOMIC/CULTURAL COOPERATION.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT JULY 31 (FBIS JN311550Y) REMARKABLE FOR ITS DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY WITH RESPECT TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND FOR THE ABSENCE OF EVEN RITUAL REFERENCE TO REGAINING ARAB LANDS. TWO JOINT PROJECTS, INDUSTRIAL COMPANY AND FREE ZONE, APPEAR TO BE MOST AMBITIOUS RESULTS OF TALKS. TWO COUNTRIES WILL EQUALLY SUPPLY JD 20 MILLION (\$62 MILLION) CAPITAL FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPANY TO BE HEAD-QUARTERED IN AMMAN. COMPANY WILL SET UP ENTERPRISES, NOTABLY FOR FOOD PROCESSING, ENGINEERING, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING. IN FIRST PHASE, INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE WILL INVOLVE 500,000 - SQUARE-METER AREA ON BORDER, EVENTUALLY TO BE EXPANDED TO 4 MILLION SQUARE METERS. COST OF FIRST STAGE, JD 5 MILLION, WILL BE SHARED EQUALLY BY TWO COUNTRIES. JOINT COMMITTEE ALSO PLEDGED INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PLANS AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW, ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE, AND LINKING ELECTRIC GRIDS. COMMITTEE AMENDED 1953 AGREEMENT ON MAQARIN DAM, NOTING THAT JORDAN WILL BUILD DAM, AND STIPULATED THAT BOTH PARTIES WILL PERMIT CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS ACCESS TO DAM SITE. JORDAN WILL HAVE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT WATER AND ELECTRICITY FROM DAM AND WILL PROVIDE NEIGHBORING SYRIAN VILLAGES WITH WATER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 05234 031316Z

4. IN FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, JOINT COMMITTEE RESOLVED TO BUILD NEW AMMAN-DAMASCUS HIGHWAY, IMPROVE TELEPHONE FACILITIES AND STUDY BUILDING OF STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD TO REPLACE PRESENT NARROW GAUGE LINE BETWEEN AL-HASA PHOSPHATE MINES IN JORDAN AND DAMASCUS. COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT JORDANIAN-SYRIAN COMPANIES FOR OVERLAND AND

MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AND APPROVED SIMPLIFICATION
OF FEES AND PROCEDURES THAT IMPEDE TRANSPORTATION.

5. JORDANIAN PUBLIC, JADED BY CEASELESS COMINGS AND
GOINGS OF POTENTATES, HAS NEVERTHELESS TAKEN KEEN
INTEREST IN AYYUBI VISIT AND COMMUNIQUE. MOST HAVE
BEEN IMPRESSED BY SPEED WITH WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS
HAVE FOLLOWED UP VOWS MADE DURING ASAD TRIP, ALTHOUGH
SUBSEQUENT REACTIONS DIFFER. YOUNGER, MIDDLE-CLASS
JORDANIANS ENTHUSIASTICALLY REGARD GOJ-SYRIAN COOPER-
ATION AS SOMETHING APPROACHING UNITY OF BILAAD ESH-SHAM
DAYS, WITH CONCOMITANT ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH PEOPLES.
STEADFASTNESS OF SYRIANS IN THIS RESPECT IS OFTEN
CONTRASTED WITH ALLEGED COP-OUT (BY OPENING CANAL AND
NEGOTIATING SETTLEMENTS) OF EGYPTIANS. OLDER, HARD-
LINE EAST BANKERS, HOWEVER, VIEW GROWING CORDIALITY
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH SUSPICION, FEARING BAATHIST
SCHEME TO USE ENTENTE FOR PURPOSES OF EXPLOITING JORDAN,
WITH AQABA PORT USUALLY BEING CITED AS MOST TEMPTING
ECONOMIC TARGET.

6. COMMENT:

A. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF COOPERATION COULD BE FAR
REACHING AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT DETAILS AS THEY
BECOME AVAILABLE. GIVEN CLOSURE OF SYRIAN-JORDANIAN
BORDER NOT SO LONG AGO, IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT GOJ
WILL CONTINUE TO PRESERVE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.
B. PAUCITY OF MILITARY INFORMATION IN COMMUNIQUE
SIGNIFICANT. (INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THIS REGARD
COMMENTS OF HUMAN EVENTS MAGAZINE REPORTER RICHARD BARTLETT,
WHO CROSSED BRIDGE FROM JERUSALEM MORNING AUGUST 2.
BARTLETT TOLD EMBASSY THAT JERUSALEM POST HAS FOR
THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS BEEN RUNNING ARTICLES PUR-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 AMMAN 05234 031316Z

PORTING TO OUTLINE DETAILS OF MILITARY COOPERATION
CONTAINED BOTH IN DAILY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY SYRIAN-
JORDANIAN DELEGATIONS, AND IN FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
NO SUCH DAILY COMMUNIQUE OR DETAILS HAVE IN FACT
BEEN ISSUED.) EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE REPORT
DETAILS OF ANY MILITARY COOPERATION AS BECOME AVAIL-
ABLE AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COVERAGE FROM TEL AVIV
AND JERUSALEM AS TO WHAT WAS ACTUALLY PUBLISHED IN
ISRAELI MEDIA ON THIS SUBJECT.
PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, MINISTERIAL VISITS, COMMUNIQUEs, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN05234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750267-1146
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750886/aaaacxuf.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SYRIAN PM AYYUBI TO JORDAN
TAGS: PFOR, JO, SY, (AYYUBI, MAHMUD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006